

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 EB-11

SCEM-02 INT-08 COME-00 DRC-01 /106 W

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O 071120Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9075

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, ENRG

SUBJ: PM TANAKA PRESS STATEMENT OF JANUARY 5

REF: STATE 002488

SUMMARY: TANAKA COMMENTS APPEAR TO EMBASSY AS ATTEMPT BRING BETTER PERSPECTIVE TO JAPANESE PRESS COVERAGE SECRETARY'S SAN CLEMENTE PRESS CONFERENCE. PM WAS ASSURING REPORTERS THAT STATEMENT WAS FRANK ASSESSMENT WORLD SITUATION AND THAT US/JAPAN TALKS WOULD CONTINUE. FONOFF PROVIDED TEXT PM'S REMARKS THIS SUBJECT.

1. PM TANAKA MADE REMARKS CITED IN TOKYO SHIMBUN AND JAPAN TIMES AT INFORMAL BACKGROUND SESSION FOR PM'S PRESS CORPS AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE SATURDAY AFTERNOON JANUARY 5. WITHOUT FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SAN CLEMENTE STATEMENT, TANAKA WAS APPARENTLY ASKED HIS REACTION TO WHAT HAS BEEN WIDELY REPORTED HERE AS SECRETARY'S WARNING TO JAPAN. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, EMBASSY BELIEVES TANAKA WAS MAKING EFFORT TO BRING PRESS INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND TO CAUTION AGAINST READING DIRE MEANING INTO WHAT WAS QUOTE FRANK ENDQUOTE STATEMENT ON COMPLEX WORLD CONDITIONS. SOME JAPANESE PAPERS (INCLUDING ASAHI AND YOMIURI) DID NOT FIND PM'S COMMENTS PARTICULARLY NEWSWORTHY
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AND EVEN JAPAN TIMES INCLUDED THEM ONLY IN BODY OF LONGER

PIECE.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF FONOFF TEXT OF PM TANAKA'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON SECRETARY'S SAN CLEMENTE NEW YEARS PRESS CONFERENCE AND PROPOSAL TO FORM AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP. FONOFF STATES THAT TEXT TAKEN FROM TAPE OF PRESS CONFERENCE. SINCE NO TAPE SUPPOSED TO EXIST, FONOFF HAS ASKED THAT WE TREAT EXISTENCE OF SAME ON VERY CLOSE-HOLD BASIS. FONOFF ALSO SENDING TEXT PM'S REMARKS TO ITS EMB WASHINGTON. BEGIN TEXT: IT IS BAD TO BE CONCERNED OVER THIS TYPE OF THING; THERE ARE ARGUMENTS EVEN BETWEEN BROTHERS AND THERE ARE ARGUMENTS EVEN AMONG DESK STAFF ON A NEWSPAPER BEFORE AN EDITORIAL IS COMPLETED. THE WORLD SITUATION IS NEITHER EASY NOR SIMPLE. I WONDER IF THIS IS NOT THE POINT THAT HE BEGINBRACKETS KISSINGER ENDBRACKETS WAS FRANKLY MAKING. JAPANESE PEOPLE AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN SAID TO NOT BE MOVING BEGINBRACKETS FORWARD ENDBRACKETS LIKE A FOOL TRYING TO JUDGE EVERYTHING BY THE ONE THING HE KNOWSWE TOO ARE READING THE NEWSPAPERS..... WE SUFFICIENTLY BEGINBRACKETS UNDERSTAND ENDBRACKETS..... JAPAN MUST DO WHAT SHE MUST DO RESPONDING TO THE FLUID WORLD SITUATION AND INTERNATIONAL WAVES. WE ALSO WANT TO KEEP FRIENDLY RELATIONS AS ESTABLISHED. IT IS NOT GOOD TO MERELY SWALLOW SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPOSAL UNCONDITIONALLY. DISCUSSION MUST ALSO BE HELD. THE OTHER SIDE SAY THAT MUCH. IT IS THE ORIGINAL PROPOSER..... SO, SPECIAL ENVOY MIKI'S VISIT, I BELIEVE, WILL PROPERLY INTRODUCE A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THESE POINTS. END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PRIMINS INTENTION WAS NOT TO REBUT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, BUT TO ATTEMPT TO LEAD LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF IT AWAY FROM CONCLUSIONS OF SERIOUS RIFT. HIS CLOSING REMARK ON COMING MIKI VISIT WAS CLEARLY CALCULATED TO ASSURE PRESS THAT US/JAPAN DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE. EMB. NOTES THAT FONOFF TEXT ONLY VAGUELY RESEMBLES TOKYO SHIMBUN ARTICLE. THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO CHARACTERISTIC PRACTICE OF JAPANESE REPORTERS, FILLING IN GAPS IN INFORMAL STATEMENTS WITH IMAGINATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS OF THEIR OWN. SHOESMITH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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